

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-07 SAJ-01 OMB-01 /068 W
----- 129046

R 301446Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3270

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 6789

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJECT: MOSCOW ON THE EVE OF MAY DAY

1. A QUICK DRIVE AROUND CENTRAL MOSCOW REVEALED AN UNUSUALLY LARGE NUMBER OF POSTERS OF MARX, ENGELS AND LENIN HUNG TOGETHER AND THE USUAL LARGE NUMBER OF POSTERS OF LENIN BY HIMSELF. POSTERS OF THE WHOLE POLITBURO HAD BREZHNEV IN FIRST PLACE; THE OTHER MEMBERS ALPHABETICALLY. TWO POSTERS OF BREZHNEV ALONE WERE OBSERVED, ONE ON THE MERCHANT MARINE BUILDING ON DZHERZHINSKIY POLOSHCHAD', THE OTHER, A HIGHLY RETOUCHE D PICTURE OF BREZHNEV ON THE MANEGE FACADE. SEVERAL OF THE BANNERS AND POSTERS CARRIED AN ECONOMIC MESSAGE; MANY STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPROVING QUALITY IN THE CURRENT 5-YEAR PLAN. THE CUSTOMARY RED FLAGS AND MAY DAY SLOGANS WERE PRESENT IN PROFUSION.

2. STOPS IN THREE MOSCOW FOOD SHOPS PRODUCED A CHORUS OF COMPLAINTS FROM THE CUSTOMERS THAT IN CONTRAST TO PREVIOUS YEARS NO SPECIAL EFFORTS SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN MADE TO STOCK STORES IN PREPARATION FOR THE HOLIDAY. SEVERAL DISCOURAGED CUSTOMERS HAZARDED THAT THE SPECIAL ALLOCATIONS OF FOOD FOR THE CONGRESS PERIOD MEANT THAT THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT FOR MAY DAY. STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, HOLIDAYS, MAY DAY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW06789
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760167-0224
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976043/aaaaabzb.tel
Line Count: 60
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <02 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOSCOW ON THE EVE OF MAY DAY
TAGS: PINT, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006